

RESOURCES

NATURE, HISTORY AND HORTICULTURE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

VOLUME 5, NO. 4 FALL 2005

Autumn Begins With a ***SPLASH OF COLOR***

Sully Historic Site has a full schedule of autumn programs to delight visitors. On October 1, from 6-9pm, Sully hosts the second annual **Harvest Moon Festival** featuring live bluegrass with The Shenandoah Travelers. Take a hayride and enjoy the show while munching on hot dogs and hamburgers.

*Turn to page 6 for more about
fascinating Sully Historic Site.*

Children eight years and older are invited to wear their favorite costume to Sully for our Halloween Tea on Saturday October 22. They can participate in activities during a tour, make a Halloween craft to take home and enjoy refreshments at tea time. Space is limited so reservations are required for a spooktacular day!

Gather 'round the light and follow your guide through the house and outbuildings. During Lantern Tours of Sully on Saturday evening, October 29, encounter historical characters bringing the past to life with their portrayals of humorous and curious tales of Sully's past.

After the work for the day was done, the slave community began tasks at "the quarter." On Saturday, November 12 from 1-3pm, Life

at the Quarter gives visitors the opportunity to learn about these chores and how life might have been for those enslaved at Sully.



For information about Sully's daily tours, programs, or for reservations, please call 703-437-1794.



Make a Scarecrow at Colvin Run Mill



Hayrides at Frying Pan Park

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Here are more Events you won't want to miss:

Farm Harvest Day at Frying Pan Park . . . A \$3 Fall Extravaganza



For more information, call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp

Mark your calendars for October 15 from 10am to 3pm. That's the day to gather up the family and head to Frying Pan Park. The \$3 entrance fee includes a small pumpkin for children to paint, a delicious fall apple, craft activities and games. But that's not all. Farm Harvest Day also features apple pressing demonstrations, an antique farm equipment display, cow milking and a "Meet the Farm Animal" area. Top off your Farm Harvest Day with a hayride (fee is \$2) and a stop at the country store for ice cream.

THE FLAVORS OF COLVIN RUN MILL

There's fun (for everybody!) down by the old mill stream.

Call 703-759-2771 for more information, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm

Ice Cream Making, Saturdays, September 10 and 24, noon-4pm. Say goodbye to summer as you crank up the last batches of homemade ice cream of the season. Samples 75 cents per cup. Enjoy a FREE concert by the Fairfax Symphony German Band on September 24 from 2-3pm.



A Taste of Colvin Run Mill, Sunday, October 16, noon to 4pm. Sample delicious goods baked from cornmeal and wheat flour stone-ground right in the mill! Enjoy breads, muffins and other goodies washed down with fresh apple cider you press yourself. Tap your toes to the Fairfax Symphony Brass

Quintet from 2-3pm. \$5 adult/\$3 children.

Scarecrow Making, Saturday, October 3, noon-2pm; Sunday, October 4, 1-3pm. You can make a real scarecrow for your yard out of straw, old clothing and imagination. Please bring shirt, pants and a pair of pantyhose for each scarecrow. \$5 per scarecrow.

Mill Run Dulcimer Band Concerts, Sunday, September 18, Sunday, October 23, 2-4pm and Saturday, November 19, 7-9pm. A joy to the community, the delightful Mill Run Dulcimer Band has held concerts at Colvin Run Mill for 30 years. FREE.

- BURKE LAKE PARK**
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
Call 703-323-6600
- COLVIN RUN MILL**
10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771
- ELLANOR C. LAWRENCE PARK**
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
Call 703-631-0013
- FRYING PAN PARK**
2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
Call 703-437-9101
- GREEN SPRING GARDENS**
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173
- HIDDEN OAKS NATURE CENTER**
7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065
- HIDDEN POND NATURE CENTER**
8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield
Call 703-451-9588
- HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK**
3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525
- LAKE ACCOTINK PARK**
7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield
Call 703-569-3464
- LAKE FAIRFAX PARK**
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Call 703-471-5414
- RIVERBEND PARK**
8700 Potomac Hills Street
Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018
- SULLY HISTORIC SITE**
Sully Road, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794

Need directions or more information? VISIT www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

RESOURCES

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Visit *ResOURces* online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources

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Equal Access/ Special Accommodations

The Fairfax County Park Authority is committed to equal access in all programs and services. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the ADA/Access coordinator at 703-324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the date services are needed.

ADA/Access Coordinator
703-324-8563 • TTY 703-803-3354
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm

Are You New to Fairfax County?

Discover our area's beautiful forests, gardens and historic sites. What better way to enjoy our county's rich history and natural resources? When you visit our county parks, you become part of them and begin your own family history in Northern Virginia.



Dranesville Tavern, Herndon



Stone Mansion, South Alexandria



Clark House, Annandale



Wakefield Chapel, Annandale

History Loves Company in Fall and Winter

By Cindy Jordan, Marketing Manager

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers eight charming historic properties to rent for corporate and nonprofit meetings and events, or family celebrations such as reunions, birthdays, weddings and anniversaries.

To rent an historic property or learn more, please call 703-938-8835 (TTY 703/750-2402), e-mail hprs@fairfaxcounty.gov, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm

There are so many creative and delightful ways county folks have added seasonal flair and atmosphere to their celebrations at historic properties. Events that feature re-enactors, for example, often blend the modern and historical for their weddings. Some events have everyone in period dress (whether it be Medieval, Civil War, Victorian or another era), and the food and entertainment are also era-appropriate. The uniqueness of the properties also allow the personalities of the hosts to shine through. One couple that loved fishing reeled in their wedding rings during the service. The natural settings allow nature lovers a chance to celebrate in surroundings they love, and history fans appreciate the ability to host an event in a unique setting that showcases Fairfax County's rich cultural heritage.

Halloween Weddings At a Halloween wedding, the bride and groom dress as their favorite fictional or real wedding couple, and encourage guests to also dress up for the event. One couple had a theme — *Come Dressed in Your Favorite Time Period* — and guests arrived in costumes from the middle ages through present day.

All-American Thanksgiving Theme Thanksgiving lends itself to a fall harvest theme. One couple that married in late November had a traditional Thanksgiving dinner at their reception. The turkey, green beans and cornbread stuffing were set on each of the tables so guests could serve themselves family-style. And yes, there was pumpkin pie for dessert along with wedding cake!

Winter Holidays December brings a chill to the air and a time to celebrate family events. Sing carols in front of a crackling fire at Cabell's Mill, or have a cozy dinner at Stone Mansion.

New Year's Resolutions January brings New Year's resolutions. What better way for a company to plan its course for the upcoming year than getting away from the office and into the rich setting of a historic place? Rental rates for weddings and parties are also reduced (from January 2 – March 31), so it's a great time to host an engagement or birthday party.

Valentine's Day February is the month of love, and red roses become the flower of choice for weddings at Wakefield Chapel.

St. Patrick's Day What Irishman (whether by birth or affection) wouldn't want a St. Patrick's Day wedding, anniversary or family reunion? Many March events blend both Irish & Scottish themes. Some brides walk down the aisle to the sound of bagpipes, while others choose the Celtic harp. The reception may include more traditional American cuisine, but you can be sure that guests will wash it down with a glass of Guinness if they choose!

GREEN ROOFS, STORMWATER, and VEGGIE GARDENS

By Tanya Amrhein, Ecologist, DPWES, Stormwater Planning Division

What do green roofs, stormwater, and veggie gardens have in common?

MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK!

Green roofs have been in existence for a very long time. The earliest known green-roofed structures were the ziggurat temples of Mesopotamia, part of what is now Iraq, built from 4000 to 600 B.C. Later, the Vikings used sod to protect roofs and walls from wind and rain. In more recent times, green roofs were dismissed as “folk” building practice. It wasn’t until the 1960s that a concern for the degrading urban environment brought a renewed interest in green roofs, most notably in Germany and Switzerland. By 2003 approximately 15 percent of all flat roofs in Germany had been greened. Driven by government incentives, the use of green roofs is now an accepted practice in the construction industries in Germany, Switzerland, France, Austria and Scandinavia.

In North America, these ideas have been slower to catch on. An increasing number of jurisdictions (Seattle, WA and Arlington, VA for example) are actively encouraging the use of green roofs through legislation and incentives.

Fairfax County recently installed its first green roof on a storage building at the Providence District supervisor’s office as a demonstration project. Green roofs are now included in the list of Low Impact Development (LID) practices in the Fairfax County Public Facilities Manual.

Slowing Down Pollution

Green roofs provide a long list of both public and private benefits, from improving aesthetics to lessening environmental impacts, to increasing energy savings. In urbanized areas like Fairfax County impervious surfaces can cause serious problems with stormwater runoff. When there are large amounts of paved surfaces such as roads, parking lots, sidewalks, and rooftops, rainfall and snowmelt will no longer soak into the ground. Instead, most of it runs off into our streams, either directly or through the storm sewer system. The water is also heated by flowing over land. This excessive runoff carries with it pollution such as motor oil, pet waste, lawn chemicals and

trash, and causes erosion of stream banks and degradation of stream habitat. Green roofs are just one technique of slowing or stopping some of this runoff and preventing heated and polluted water from entering waterways (raingardens are another example). A green roof and its plants will typically retain and use an average of more than 50

percent (some even up to 80 percent) of the rain that falls on that roof.

Another consideration in urban areas is the *Urban Heat Island Effect*. With more paved surfaces and roofs and less trees, urban areas absorb and retain much more heat than a wooded area in the same climate. On a 95-degree day the surface of a dark-colored roof will be about 125 degrees, a light-colored roof will be about 115 degrees, and a green roof, at plant level, will actually be cooler than

the surrounding air, at 93 degrees. This is because of the plants’ *evapotranspiration* — a process that involves evaporation of water during photosynthesis that actually cools the air. If all the rooftops in a given city, say New York, were greened, this heat island effect would be greatly lessened.

Increasing Oxygen and Air Quality

Additionally, green roofs can provide improved air quality and oxygen production, allow multiple uses in a limited space and create local jobs. Green roofs can be specifically designed to provide habitat for wildlife. They can also be used for horticultural therapy — studies have shown that patients who see a green roof from their hospital room require less pain medication and recover and leave the hospital faster than those whose view is of a brick wall.

Another creative use of a green roof is to provide space for community or private vegetable gardens. Owners of buildings with green roofs benefit from reduced heating and cooling costs, increased life of their roofs’ waterproof membrane (up to three times longer), added amenities like accessible roof gardens and an increased property value.

The Fairmount Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver saves about \$30,000 in food costs per year by growing its own herbs and vegetables on its roof.

continued on next page



The Providence District green roof.

Something Bright and Shining

By Susan Clark, Assistant Manager, Museum Collections



When his daughter Elizabeth married Richard Bland Lee of Sully in 1794, Stephen Collins generously ordered "1 pair cream & sugar Basons," along with other articles of silver to grace the table of her new home. The pieces were ordered from a Philadelphia silversmith. And indeed, in 1797 visitor Thomas Shippen noted that Sully's "parlour and chambers" were "completely equipped with every luxury as well as convenience."

For some time, Fairfax County's Museum Collections staff has been searching for just the right period pieces to represent the fine Philadelphia-made silver cream pitcher and sugar basin that Elizabeth Collins Lee owned and used when entertaining guests at Sully. This adds to the site's historic authenticity.

At long last, two pieces of circa 1796 American silver, a classically styled cream pitcher and sugar basin with lid, have been located and purchased thanks to a generous gift from the Sully



Foundation, Ltd. Stamped with the mark of prominent Philadelphia silversmith Abner H. Reeder (1766-1841), these graceful, urn-shaped pieces were considered *in the latest fashion* during the post-revolutionary era of the new American Republic. Like many highly skilled and successful American craftsmen during this period, Reeder's elegantly styled work reflected the then popular neo-classical taste. In 1798, an epidemic of yellow fever forced Reeder to move his family to Trenton, New Jersey, where he re-established his silver and jewelry business.

It's a fascinating historical note that in 1797, according to records, one of Reeder's Philadelphia patrons was the famed Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. References to Benjamin Rush appear in the Lee family letters.

Fairfax County Park Authority has three accredited museums: Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, Green Spring Gardens and Sully Historic Site.

If you would like to volunteer with Museum Collections or learn more, call Susan Clark at 703-681-9743, or email susan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov

GREEN ROOFS *continued*

There are three basic types of green roof:

■ **Extensive:**

Extensive roofs are the simplest and lightest type. They only require three to six inches of lightweight growing medium (12 to 25 pounds per square foot of roof, saturated weight) and are typically planted with extremely hardy and drought-tolerant plants like sedums or alpine wildflowers.

■ **Semi-intensive:**

Semi-intensive green roofs are designed

with around six inches of growing medium and allow for a greater variety of plants. Often this type of roof is at least partially accessible, so plants can be viewed.

■ **Intensive:**

Intensive green roofs are the heaviest and most complex type. They require more than six inches of growing medium and can have as much as four feet, making them extremely heavy (50 to 200 pounds per square foot). A very wide variety of plants can be used on this type of roof,

including trees. Some intensive green roofs have ponds and fountains, and there is even a rooftop golf course in existence! This type of roof will provide local jobs (maintenance), the best insulation to reduce heating and cooling costs, the best wildlife habitat potential, and the best possibilities for recreational use.

Green roofs — stormwater control, veggie gardens and more. What a great use for an otherwise empty, useless space! **For more information about green roofs, visit www.greenroofs.org**

Visit Green Spring Gardens. Green Spring offers an amazing number of horticulture and history classes for all ages and interests including teas, tours, family programs, and cooking demonstrations. Learn about plants, trees, and flowers at Green Spring through the park's extensive plant labeling.

To volunteer at Green Spring Gardens, call Becky Super at 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer.htm

SULLY'S TEN BEST

By Carol McDonnell,
Sully Historic Site Manager
and Barbara Ziman, Events Coordinator

Endlessly fascinating Sully Historic Site is the gateway to western Fairfax County, and an historic jewel. Sully was the home of Richard Bland Lee, northern Virginia's first Congressman and uncle to Robert E. Lee. Built in 1794, it's one of the oldest buildings in the area. The site itself is rich with American history, reflecting two centuries of Virginian — and our nation's — heritage.



I From Horse and Buggy to the Space Age

Sully is an excellent starting place for a tour of our region. The site not only interprets past history but shares the neighborhood with the most recent addition to the Smithsonian Institution. The Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center, housing the Air & Space Museum, is just across the highway. In one day, visitors go from horse and buggy to space age travel.



2 The Summer Antique Car Show and the Fall Quilt Show & Sale, each celebrating their 32nd birthday in 2005, continues to draw the crowds to Sully Historic Site. Over 5,000 people fill the grounds at Sully reminiscing about the car Dad drove, enjoying classic cars or buying the car of their dreams from the Car Corral. At the Quilt Show, 50+ vendors spur visitors to walk through the park admiring antique and new American-made quilts, quilting goods and needlework. Both the Car Show and Quilt Show are the biggest in the area, and Sully is where it all happens.

3 Unraveling Our Nation's Story

What was life like for a congressman and his wife in 1794? What were their children's names, and how cold were the rooms in the deep frost of the winter? How many slaves lived and worked at Sully? Was Madam Juba working at the laundry every day? Hundreds of questions, yet so many do get answered at Sully. Historians love our division's archives. Hundreds of letters, documents and records are in our small library to help with our continuous historical quest.



4 Tours, Workshops and Demonstrations

On daily tours, visitors get an insider's view of the furnishings and lifestyle of a gentleman farmer who enjoyed life in the upper 10 percent of wealth of our young nation in the 1790s. The enslaved community and their everyday life is also interpreted as part of daily tours and programs. The museum education program for children features four



learning centers that include textiles, open hearth kitchen, slave life and the 19th century school room. 100,000+ students over 25 years have enjoyed the program so far.

Special events at Sully feature baking workshops, textile demonstrations, blacksmithing, craft programs, quill writing, slave life foodways and gardening.

5 Archaeology

Sully's archaeological sites are fascinating and numerous. One important site was found in the 1980s and was re-excavated in the 1990s. Three slave structures were found along an old roadbed, which leads to Cain's Branch creek. From this evidence, the decision was made in 1998 to construct a 16' by 20' cabin on top of the archaeological footprint to simulate a slave cabin, circa 1790s, early 1800s. The construction, using traditional techniques, was completed in 2000.



In 2002 an award-winning video was made by Sully and Park Authority staff on the building of the Sully Slave Quarter which included an important segment on archaeology.

Call Sully for more information.

6 Godfrey, Tom Salter and the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

In 2004, Sully was named to the National Park Service's *National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom*. This program encourages sites across the nation to network together and become recognized for research on slavery — proving individual struggles and flights to freedom. Sully met the criteria for research done on slave family names and connections through letters, records and run-away ads for at least two individuals, *Godfrey* and *Tom Salter*, both enslaved at Sully. Although Sully was never a "safehouse" or on a particular known route to freedom, the evidence is clear there was flight from slavery.



7 Natural Resources

Beyond the big house at Sully, there is a babbling brook (named after a frontiersman, *Cain*); a forest with a healthy understory amid fresh Virginia and native pines; scores of deer, at least two families of fox, a good supply of red-tailed hawks and Baltimore Orioles. A small trail system through the eastern woods links five archaeological sites ranging from the late 18th to the early 19th centuries. A wonderful time to enjoy the walk is in the fall.

8 Gardens featuring Heirloom Plants

Heirloom varieties of flowers, vegetables and herbs are grown at Sully, even though from a distance, visitors may not be able to tell the difference between modern or heirloom plants. We strive to make every effort to produce accurate plants, vegetables and flowers in Sully's three gardens — the bullet-shaped flower garden, the vegetable/herb garden and the slave quarter garden.

9 Civil War Trails

In 2004 Sully was listed on the Civil War Trails program of Virginia that includes over 300 sites. Sully was named for its unique history during the Civil War that included a visit from Confederate General Jeb Stuart, Colonel John S. Mosby and several other encampments during the Haight residency at Sully. Every year Sully remembers its Civil War roots with the **Civil War Weekend** in summer, featuring encampments, demonstrations and battle squirmishes on the grounds.

10 Historic Preservation

The architectural look of the 18th century is hard to maintain. Wood rots in extreme moist weather, heat and cold, not to mention acid rain. However, the paid and volunteer staff of Sully Historic Site, along with the Sully Foundation, Ltd., and the Park Authority are nationally recognized for their caring leadership and steadfast pursuit of Sully's historic preservation, ensuring its future.



Sully Historic Site is located on Route 28 in Chantilly, VA. From the Beltway (495) take either I66 west to Rt. 28 North or the Dulles Toll Rd. to exit 9A (Rt. 28 South). Sully is open daily from 11am - 4pm (closed Tuesdays and some holidays, check ahead). For more information and fees, contact Sully Historic Site 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully/

Do your holiday shopping at the Schoolhouse Store
The Schoolhouse Store at Sully once served as a one-room country schoolhouse. Today it offers items reminiscent of the early 19th century, including gifts and toys for children.

MUSKRAT RAMBLE

*Ever spot a muskrat?
We've got lots of them
in Fairfax County.*

CARE, EDUCATE, INSPIRE

Stewardship is about working together to care for the environmental and cultural resources of Fairfax County. People become stewards for different reasons. They may want to help ensure clean water and air. They may wish to share something with their children. They may be inspired by spiritual beliefs. Whatever prompts our commitment, it is easy to take an active role in stewardship. It can be a small and simple thing, or it can be much bigger. Either way, it all adds up to a Fairfax County that looks to its past with pride and to its future with confidence.



Musk rats are stubborn survivors. A baby muskrat will cling to its mother on the run from predators, be dragged along the ground, hold on as she climbs and drop off only when the mother is forced to dive into the water to avoid natural enemies such as snake, raccoon, fox, owl, hawk or heron. Born light as a chicken's egg and the length of a crayon, a surviving baby muskrat rushes through development. Within days, it has grown thick, brown fur and is crawling; at three weeks swimming and diving; and at six weeks it leaves home armed with four chisel-like front teeth.

The young-adult muskrat gnaws branches and plants for food and for building a starter lodge near the parents if the habitat is good. They swim into their lodge (usually a dome shaped mound of plant material) from underwater. If they nest in banks, they also build underwater entrances. Minks are the greatest danger as these natural enemies are able to slink and burrow into muskrat tunnels.

The adult muskrat, weighing in at about three pounds, has been likened to an overgrown field mouse or tiny beaver because of its semi-aquatic lifestyle and front teeth adapted for underwater chewing. The incisors protrude ahead of the cheeks and lips that close behind the incisors. But the muskrat does not gnaw down trees or build dams to impound water. Its tail, unlike the beaver's, is flattened vertically and made for steering it through water, or, in winter, through ice channels on long foraging trips. From above thin ice, the muskrat appears as a fluid silvery sheen because its dense waterproof fur holds air and reflects light.

Musk rats can swim underwater without breathing for up to 15 minutes, day or night, chewing off portions of plants and consuming

them in "pushups," small holes burrowed up through ice and camouflaged with plant material.

On land, the muskrat's sleek swimmer shape seems to sag (paunchy, squatty, blunt muzzled, beady-eyed). Its tracks attest to its waddle. The muskrat's hand-like front feet are used in building lodges, holding food and digging burrows. Its hind feet are partially webbed. Muskrats are feisty even toward one another. Scars from fights on the marsh are common. To see a muskrat in the wild is to usually see it disappear, unless a person is as quiet and soft stepping as a heron.

Musk rats are native to North America. Musquash was the Indian name for it. Marsh rabbit was the trade name used to sell muskrat meat in order to avoid association with rats. Mudrat, mud beaver and bankrat are all descriptive nicknames. "Hudson Seal" was a name used to market muskrat fur for women's coats, still a thriving industry. The musk from the secretion of its musk glands is no longer used in the perfume industry.

Musk rats do not store food. When food is scarce, they become omnivores, feeding on snails, clams, crayfish and frogs, or traveling to poach from gardens and farms. But muskrats prefer aquatic plants and fill a vital role in a wetland ecosystem. They are prey to larger animals and, in turn, shred vegetation for smaller animals and insects. Bacteria and other decomposers work on the detritus to release nutrients back into the wetland. However, if muskrat populations get too large, they can denude areas of vegetation.

Mother muskrats have several litters a year containing five to 10 babies. Few muskrats live beyond four years. As they age, they lose much of their natural alertness and fall easy prey to enemies. Owls rip them up before eating. A great blue heron was once seen in a Fairfax County park trying to swallow one whole, but then spit him out, and the muskrat was free to ramble once more.

Through all muskrat's troubles, their numbers have remained consistent, partly due to the decline of enemies such as the otter and bald eagle.

Replacing Invasives with Beautiful Native Trees

By Meghan Fellows, Naturalist

We hear much about invasive plants being a problem for our natural communities, but we don't always know what to do about it. Simply removing the invasive plant may leave a giant hole in the ground that seems worse than the tree that was there. Removing invasive trees like Bradford Pear or Norway Maple may create a disturbed spot, that if not treated, may allow another invasive plant to establish. Planting a native tree can prevent future invasive species problems. Fall's cooler temperatures and plentiful rainfall help native plants take root. Native trees often prove to be more wildlife-friendly, more drought tolerant and less difficult to maintain. Here are four of my favorite trees for native landscapes.



Red Bud (*Cercis canadensis*)

A medium tree (to 30'), red bud has bright, raspberry-colored flowers which are held close to the branches. The leaves are easily recognizable by the valentine shape. The large seed pods provide a valuable food source for wildlife. Fall color is yellow.



Witch Hazel (*Hammelis virginiana*)

A large shrub (to 20'), witch hazel blooms from late fall to early winter. The yellow, medusa-like flowers easily brighten up a winter landscape. The multiple stems and dark green leaves provide a nice backdrop for shorter plantings. Fall color can be yellow, orange or red.



River Birch (*Betula nigra*)

A large tree (to 70'), river birch's height provides plenty of opportunity to view the peeling, salmon-colored bark. Usually the trunk divides low enough to create three or four main stems. As the name implies, this tree likes slightly wetter situations where it can grow tall and provide lots of shade. Planters should note that when it gets very hot and humid, there may some shedding of leaves. Fall color ranges from chartreuse to yellow.



Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)

A hardy small tree (to 15'), fringetree dazzles with a June bloom. The white, lemon scented flowers dangle from the branches like the beard on an old man's chin. Fruit ripens to a purple-black berry-like fruit that birds love. Leaves turn golden yellow in the fall.

Here are some of the benefits of growing native from master gardener Pat Henley at Green Spring Gardens:

There are so many good reasons to grow native and banish invasive plants. Invasives dominate and eventually change the habitat, impacting and even destroying existing plants and the animals that depend on them. A once-thriving diverse natural community of plants, animals and insects can be reduced to a stretch of a single invasive species. And it's costly. In the U.S., millions of dollars are spent annually to combat the effects of invasive plants.

Fortunately, using native plants when planting and gardening is a growing trend among developers and landscapers. Nursery owners are stocking up on native plants to meet the demand for them by homeowners. These excellent websites will help you identify invasive plants and suggest native alternatives:

GROWING NATIVE:

www.growingnative.org

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html

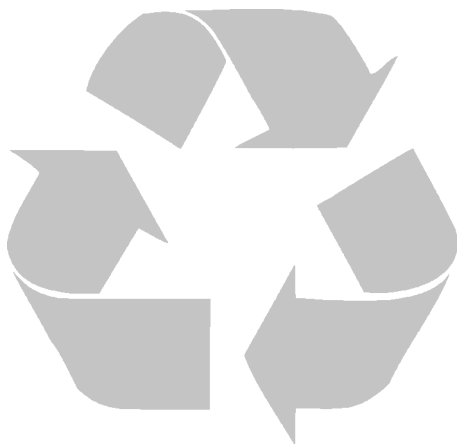
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY:

www.vnps.org/invasive.html

If you wish to be happy for a year, plant a garden; if you wish to be happy for a lifetime, plant a tree.

It's EASY to Recycle Right

By Pamela Gratton, Fairfax County Recycling Manager



Recycling is a premier component of Fairfax County's commitment to environmental stewardship and is strongly supported by citizens. Since county recycling began in 1990, the quantity of recyclables has steadily increased. Fairfax County currently recycles about 32% of all the refuse generated within the county. Last year, about 450,000 tons of recyclables were collected for recycling in the county. The majority of the recyclables collected were paper; about 120,000 tons were collected in 2004. And now, Fairfax County is expanding the types of materials collected curbside.

Presently, all single-family homes and town homes that receive curbside refuse and recycling collection service can recycle newspapers, metal and glass food and beverages containers and yard waste. The county's Solid Waste Management Program is proud to announce that county residents can now also recycle plastic bottles and jugs, clean mixed paper and flattened cardboard.

Recycle the following for curbside pick-up

- newspapers
- metal food and beverage containers
- glass food and beverage containers
- yard waste
- large plastic bottles and jugs
- clean mixed paper
- flattened cardboard

Learn more about recycling and composting in Fairfax County by visiting fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/



HOW TO RECYCLE PLASTIC JUGS

Put plastic bottles and jugs in your recycling bin with metal and glass food and beverage containers. We only want plastic bottles and jugs; that is, containers with necks that are smaller than the body of the bottle or jug. We don't want margarine tubs, yogurt containers, deli boxes or any other plastic (including toys) because they don't have necks. Just remember to *Check the Neck!*

HOW TO RECYCLE MIXED PAPER AND CARDBOARD

Mixed paper can also be recycled from your home. Any clean paper without food on it can be recycled — this leaves out pizza boxes! You can recycle envelopes, junk mail, catalogues, magazines, cereal and cracker boxes, shoe boxes, telephone books and any other paper without a waxy coating and without food. You will be surprised at how much of trash is really clean paper and you will see your trash bags get smaller and your recycling container gain a little weight.

And last but not least, just flatten your cardboard and place it at the curb with your mixed paper. You will be on your way to recycling more to help us keep Fairfax County clean.

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE STRATEGIES

This is a great website to visit to learn about Virginia wildlife and resolutions for wildlife conflicts. It is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

<http://www.vawildlifestrategies.org/species.html>



SAVE THE DATE...

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2005

for Fairfax County's First Annual History Conference

"People, Places and Preservation!"

FEATURING:

- ★ Filmmaker Ron Maxwell, director of GETTYSBURG and GODS AND GENERALS
- ★ Expert presenters including Jean Frederico, Director of Historic Alexandria
- ★ Sessions to address current issues
- ★ History group agendas for 2005-2006
- ★ Addressing preservation issues with a collective voice

The Conference will be held from 9am to 4pm at Ellmore Farm Center at Frying Pan Park, located at 2739 West Ox Road in Herndon, VA.

Attendance is limited to the first 100 registrants, so register now.

Admission price (payable in advance) is \$10.00 and includes a catered lunch.*

Write out your tax-deductible check to FCPA, History Conference and send to:

Michael C. Rierson
Resource Management Division/FCPA
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 936
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118

For questions or to RSVP, contact Lynne Garvey Wark, lghassoc@erols.com, 703-322-1811.

Do you belong to a history group?

BRING A DISPLAY

For details, please call Yvonne Johnson, FCPA, at 703-437-9101.

* All tax-deductible proceeds go to the Fairfax County Historic Commission for this and future conferences. Sponsored by the Fairfax County History Commission and Architectural Review Board, Fairfax County Park Authority and Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center.

FRYING PAN PARK NEEDS YOU!

If you ever wanted to "Work on the Farm" now is a great time. Work indoors or outside, full-time or just a few hours a week. Check out the positions below.

Interpreters — Teach programs for school and scout groups, and drive a tractor for hayrides. Includes some work with the farm animals. 30-40 hours/week including some Saturdays.

Instructors — Teach dance, art, fitness, drama, genealogy or scrapbooking classes. Call for days and times.

Office Assistants — Meet and greet the visitors, help with phones and learn class registration procedures. Evening and weekend hours needed. A great part-time job for students.

Frying Pan Park is a 1930's working farm located in Herndon, VA.

For more information, contact 703-437-9101



What's RMD? RMD stands for Resource Management Division. It is the part of the Park Authority responsible for natural, historical and horticultural resources.



☐ Please enter my **FREE** subscription to **ResOURCES**.

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MAIL TO: Resources/RMD, Suite 936
12055 Government Center Parkway • Fairfax, VA 22035-1118
or: subscribe through our website at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources

WELCOME TO ResOURCES ONLINE

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources

Our newly renovated website, representing the Resource Management Division (RMD) of the Park Authority and ResOURCES newsletter, is now online and ready for you.

On the website, you can learn more about RMD's work to protect, preserve and interpret Fairfax County's natural and cultural heritage. You can **Visit the Sites** to see the county's beautiful nature centers and historical sites, or stop by the charming **Rental Properties** to plan your next special event. One of our many new features is **Who Do You Call?** for concerns about encroachment, wildlife, county artifacts and more. In **Nature Finder**, find out where to see county birds and flora, visit the **Wildflowers**, or check the **Almanac** for natural and astronomical events. Past issues are available for ResOURCES newsletter, along with dozens of articles about county nature, history and horticulture in the **Articles Index**.

Were You an Outdoors Kind of Kid? Do You Love a Good Story?

When you were little, did you love running around outside wild and happy with your friends? Did you love exploring the woods, tuned in to the bugs, trees and animals? Did you love telling stories around the campfire about days of yore?

WHAT THAT A RESOUNDING YES?

Then you may be a natural-born park volunteer and/or heritage interpreter. When you volunteer, you join hundreds of dedicated (and fun!) folks who share your passion for nature and Virginia's rich history. Call your local park listed on page 2, or call/email the following Volunteer Coordinators.

VOLUNTEERING: erin.chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov, 703-324-8750

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:

mona.enquistjohnston@fairfaxcounty.gov, 703-324-8750

PROTECTION: robert.wharton@fairfaxcounty.gov, 703-534-3881

MASTER GARDENERS PROGRAM:

Community Horticulture, 703-642-0128



12055 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-1118

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